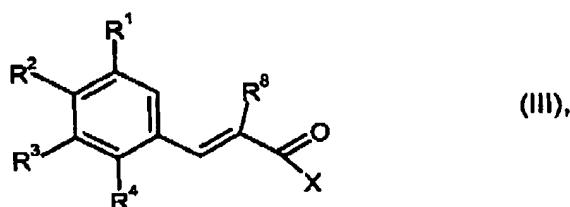


**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 1-9 and add new Claims 10-15.

1.-9. (Currently Cancelled)

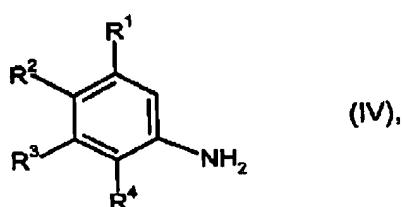
10. (New) A process for preparing a compound of formula (III)



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are identical or different and in each case represent hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine or bromine, at least two of these radicals being other than hydrogen and

- X represents OR<sup>5</sup> or N(R<sup>6</sup>)(R<sup>7</sup>), where R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen or optionally substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl or benzyl and R<sup>6</sup> and R<sup>7</sup> are identical or different and in each case represent optionally substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkyl and
- R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen, chlorine, bromine or optionally substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkyl,

the process comprising: reacting (1) an aniline of the formula (VI)



wherein R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> have the meaning indicated in formula (III) with A<sup>⊖</sup> sodium nitrite in aqueous sulfuric acid into a diazonium salt and reacting (2) the resulting reaction mixture

with a compound of formula (V)



wherein

X has the meaning indicated in formula (III) and

R8 represents hydrogen, chlorine, bromine or optionally substituted C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkyl,

in the presence of a homogeneous, palladium-containing catalyst at a temperature ranging from about -5 to about +100°C.

11. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein

R1 represents hydrogen or chlorine,

R2 represents hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine or bromine,

R3 represents hydrogen or chlorine and

R4 represents fluorine or chlorine, at least one of the radicals R1, R2 and R3 being other than hydrogen,

R5 represents hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, isopropyl or benzyl,

R6 and R7 represent methyl or ethyl,

R8 represents hydrogen or methyl and

A<sup>6</sup> represents an equivalent of chloride, hydrogensulfate or acetate or 1/2 an equivalent of sulfate.

12. (New) The process according to Claim 11, wherein, the palladium-containing catalyst is selected from the group consisting of PdCl<sub>2</sub>, PdBr<sub>2</sub>, Pd(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub>, Pd(CH<sub>3</sub>COO)<sub>2</sub>, Na<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub>, K<sub>2</sub>PdCl<sub>4</sub>, Pd(II) acetylacetone, tetra-(trisphenylphosphine)Pd, tris-(dibenzylidene-acetone)Pd<sub>2</sub> and wherein the palladium-containing catalyst is used in an amount ranging from about 0.001 to about 10 mol%, based on the diazonium salt of the formula (IV).

13. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein from about 0.5 to about 2 moles of compounds of formula (V) are employed, per mole of diazonium salt of the formula (IV).

14. (New) The process according to Claim 10, wherein the process is carried out without a base.

15. (New) The compound of formula (III'):

